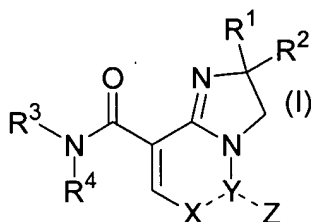


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

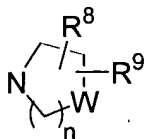
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A compound represented by formula (I):

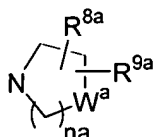


{wherein X--Y--Z represents R⁵N-C=O (wherein R⁵ represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkenyl, or substituted or unsubstituted lower alkynyl), N=C-NR⁶R⁷ [wherein R⁶ and R⁷ may be the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; or R⁶ and R⁷ are combined together with the adjacent nitrogen atom thereto to form:



(wherein n represents an integer of 1 to 3; W represents -CH₂-, -CH=CH-, -NH-, a sulfur atom, or an oxygen atom; and R⁸ and R⁹ may be the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy carbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower

alkanoyl, substituted or unsubstituted aroyl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaroyl, a halogen atom, amino, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, oxo, carboxy, carbamoyl, mono or di(substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl)amino, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkanoylamino, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyloxy, or substituted or unsubstituted lower alkanoyloxy)], or $C=C-NR^{6a}R^{7a}$ (wherein R^{6a} and R^{7a} have the same meanings as R^6 and R^7 defined above, respectively); R^1 and R^2 may be the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group, a halogen atom, carboxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy carbonyl, or $C(=O)-NR^{6b}R^{7b}$ (wherein R^{6b} and R^{7b} have the same meanings as R^6 and R^7 defined above, respectively); and R^3 and R^4 may be the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; or R^3 and R^4 are combined together with the adjacent nitrogen atom thereto to form:



(wherein n_a , W^a , R^{8a} and R^{9a} have the same meanings as n , W , R^8 and R^9 defined above, respectively)), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 2 (original): The compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein $X-Y-Z$ is $R^5N-C=O$ (wherein R^5 has the same meaning as defined above).

Claim 3 (original): The compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein X--Y--Z is $N=C-NR^6R^7$ (wherein R^6 and R^7 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively).

Claim 4 (original): The compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 3, wherein R^6 and R^7 are not hydrogen atoms simultaneously.

Claim 5 (original): The compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 3, wherein R^6 is a hydrogen atom and R^7 is substituted or unsubstituted pyrrolidinyl.

Claim 6 (original): The compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein X--Y--Z is $C=C-NR^{6a}R^{7a}$ (wherein R^{6a} and R^{7a} have the same meanings as defined above, respectively).

Claim 7 (original): The compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 6, wherein R^{6a} and R^{7a} are not hydrogen atoms simultaneously.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, wherein either R^1 or R^2 is a hydrogen atom and the other is substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, or substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl; or R^1 and R^2 may be the same or different and each is substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, wherein R¹ is a hydrogen atom and R² is aralkyl.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~claim 1, wherein R³ is a hydrogen atom and R⁴ is lower alkyl.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~claim 1, wherein R³ is a hydrogen atom and R⁴ is substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition which comprises the compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~claim 1.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A preventive and/or therapeutic agent for diabetes, which comprises the compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~claim 1.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A preventive and/or therapeutic agent for complication of diabetes, which comprises the compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~claim 1.

Claim 15 (currently amended): An insulin secretion promoter which comprises the compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~claim 1.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A hypoglycemic agent which comprises the compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~claim 1.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A method for preventing and/or treating diabetes, which comprises administering an effective amount of the compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~claim 1.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method for preventing and/or treating a complication of diabetes, which comprises administering an effective amount of the compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~claim 1.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A method for promoting insulin secretion, which comprises administering an effective amount of the compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~claim 1.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A method for decreasing blood glucose level, which comprises administering an effective amount of the compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~claim 1.

Claims 21-24 (canceled)